

4. (Original) The membrane of Claim 1 or 2 wherein the IPA flow time is less than about 1500 seconds.

5. (Original) The membrane of Claim 1 or 2 wherein said perfluorinated thermoplastic polymer is poly(tetrafluoroethylene-co-perfluoro(alkylvinylether)) or poly(tetrafluoroethylene-co-hexafluoropropylene).

6. (Original) The membrane of Claim 5, wherein the alkyl of said poly(tetrafluoroethylene-co-perfluoro(alkylvinylether)) is propyl, methyl, or blends of methyl and propyl.

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 have been rejected as being indefinite for use of the phrase "IPA flow time". The claims have been amended to clarify this phrase in accordance with page 23, lines 2-9 of the original specification. Accordingly, this ground of rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-6 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Yen et al. (5,032,274). Applicants specifically discuss Yen et al. at page 8, lines 3-27 of the original specification. As noted there, Yen et al. utilize an extrusion process having an air gap between an extruder nozzle and a liquid into which the extrudate is directed. In contrast, applicants utilize an extrusion process not having any such an air gap (page 10, lines 3-4 of applicants' specification). Applicants have found that only by utilizing their process are hollow fiber membranes having the IPA flow time characteristic specified by the claims obtained. Accordingly, this ground of rejection should be withdrawn.

In view of the above, it is submitted that applicants' claims define patentable subject matter and an early Notice of Allowance to that effect is respectfully requested.

Cheng et al  
U.S. Serial No. 09/890,109  
Amendment

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Respectfully submitted,

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